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The Deposition of Mr. William Carstares, when he was Examined before the Lords of Secret Committee, given in by him, and renewed upon Oath, upon the 22d of December 1684, in presence of the Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council.

Edinburgh-Castle, September 8. 1684.

MR. William Carstares being examined upon Oath, conform to the Condestation given in by him, and on the Terms therein mentioned, depons, That about November or December 1682. James Stuart Brother to the Laird of Culines, wrote a Letter to him from Holland, importing, That if any considerable Summ of Money could be procured from England, that something of Importance might be done in Scotland; the which Letter, the Deponent had an Inclination to inform Shepard in Abb-Church-Lane, Merchant in London of; but before he would do it, he wrote to Mr. Stuart above named, to know from him if he might do it; and Mr. Stuart having consented, he communicate the said Letter to Mr. Shepard, who told the Deponent, that he would Communicat the Contents of it to some Persons in England, but did at that time name no body, as the Deponent thinks; Some time thereafter, Mr. Shepard told the Deponent, that he had Communicat the Contents of the Letter above-named, to Collonel Sidney, and that Collonel Danvers was present, and told the Deponent, that Collonel Sidney was averse from imploying the late Earl of Argyle, or meddling with him, judging him a Man too much affected to the Royal Family, and inclined to the present Church Government; yet Mr. Shepard being put upon it by the Deponent, still urg'd, that one might be sent to the Earl of Argyle; but as Mr. Shepard told him, he was suspected upon the Account of his urging so much; yet afterwards he pressed, without the Deponents Knowledge, that the Deponent being to go to Holland however, might have some Commission to the Earl of Argyle, which he having informed the Deponent of, the Deponent told him, that he himself would not be concerned; but if they would send another, he would introduce him, but nothing of this was done: Upon which, the Deponent went over, without any Commission from any body, to Holland, never meeting with James Stuart above-named. He was introduced to the Earl of Argyle, with whom he had never before conversed; and did there discourse what had past betwixt Mr. Shepard and him; and particularly, about remitting of Money to the said Earl from England, of which, the said Mr. Stuart had written to the Deponent, namely, of 30000 Pound Sterling; and of the raising of 1000 Horse and Dragoons; and the securing the Castle of Edinburgh, as a Matter of the greatest Importance. The Method of doing this was proposed by the Deponent, to be one Hour, or thereby, after the relieving of the Guards: But the Earl did not relish this Proposition, as dangerous, and that the Castles would fall of Consequence, after the Work abroad was done. James Stuart was of the Deponents Opinion for seizing the Castle, because it would secure Edinburgh, the Magazines and Arms. As to the 1000 Horse and Dragoons, my Lord Argyle was of Opinion, that without them nothing was to be done, and that if that number were raised in England to the said Earl, he would come into Scotland with them; and that there being so few Horse and Dragoons to meet them, he judg'd he might get the Country without trouble, having such a standing Body for their Friends to Rendezvouze to; and the said Earl said, he could shew the Deponent the convenient Places for Landing, if he understood; and as the Deponent remembers, where the Ships could attend. The Deponent remembers not the Names of the Places. The Deponent spoke to the Lord Stairs, but cannot be positive that he nam'd the Affair to him, but found him shy: But the Earl of Argyle told him, He thought Stairs might be gain'd to them: And that the Earl of Lowdown being a Man of good Reason and disoblig'd, would have great Influence upon the Country, and recommended the Deponent to Major Holms, with whom the Deponent had some acquaintance before, and had brought over a Letter from him to the Earl of Argyle, but the Deponent had not then Communicat any thing to the said Holms. James Stuart laid down a way of Correspondence by Cyphers and false Names, and sent them over to Holms, and the Deponent, for their Use (which Cyphers and Names, are now in the Hands of his Majesty's Officers, as the Deponent supposes) and did desire the Deponent earnestly to propose the 30000 lib. Sterling above-named to the Party in England; and did not propose any less; for as the
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Earl told the Deponent, he had particularly calculate the Expence for Arms, Ammunition, &c. But *James Stuart* said, that if some less could be had, the Earl would content himself, if better might not be; but the Earl always said, that there was nothing to be done without the Body of Horse and Dragoons above mentioned. During the time of the Deponent his Abode in *Holland*, tho' he had several Letters from *Shepard*, yet there was no satisfactory Account, till some time after the Deponent parted from the Earl of *Argyle*, and was making for a Ship at *Rotterdam*, to transport himself to *England*. *James Stuart* wrote to him, that there was hopes of the Money. The next Day after the Deponent came to *England*, he met with Sir *John Cochran*, who with Commissar *Monro* and *Fervyswood*, was at *London* before he came over, and depones, That he knows not the Account of their coming, more than for perfecting the Transaction about *Carolina*; and having acquainted Sir *John Cochran* with the Earls demands of the 30000 *l. Sterling*, and 1000 Horse and Dragoons; Sir *John* carried him to the Lord *Russel*, to whom the Deponent proposed the Affair, but being an absolute Stranger to the Deponent, had no return from him at that time; but afterwards having met him accidentally at Mr. *Shepards* House, where he the Lord *Russel* had come to speak to *Shepard* about the Money above-named, as Mr. *Shepard* told the Deponent, The Deponent (when they were done speaking) desired to speak to the Lord *Russel*, which the Lord *Russel* did, and having reiterate the former Proposition for the 30000 *l. Sterling*, and the 1000 Horse and Dragoons, he the Lord *Russel* told the Deponent, they could not get so much raised at the time, but if they had 10000 Pound to begin, that would draw People in, and when they were once in, they would soon be brought to more; but as for the 1000 Horse and Dragoons, he could say nothing at the present, for that behoved to be concerted upon the Borders. The Deponent made the same Proposal to Mr. *Ferguson*, who was much concerned in the Affair, and zealous for the promoting of it.

This Mr. *Ferguson* had in *October* or *November* before, as the Deponent remembers in a Conversation with the Deponent in *Cheapside*, or the Street some-where thereabout said, That for the saving of Innocent Blood, it would be necessary to cut off a few, insinuating the King and Duke, but cannot be positive whether he named them or not, to which the Deponent said, That's Work for our wild People in *Scotland*, my Conscience does not serve me for such things; after which the Deponent had never any particular Discourse with *Ferguson* as to that Matter; but as to the other Affairs, *Ferguson* told the Deponent, That he was doing what he could to get it effectuate, as particularly, that he spoke to one Major *Wildman*, who is is not of the Deponent his acquaintance, *Ferguson* blamed always *Sidney*, as driving Designs of his own. The Deponent met twice or thrice with the Lord *Melvin*, Sir *John Cochran*, *Fervyswood* Commissar *Monro*, the two *Cessnocks*, *Montgomery* of *Langshaw*, and one Mr. *Veatch*, where they discoursed of Money to be sent to *Argyle*, in order to the carrying on the Affair, and tho' he cannot be positive the Affair was named, yet it was understood by himself, and as he conceives by all present, to be for rising in Arms, for rectifying the Government. Commissary *Monro*, Lord *Melvil*, and the two *Cessnocks* were against meddling with the *English*, because they judged them Men that would talk, and would not do, but were more inclined to do something by themselves, if it could be done. The Lord *Melvil* thought every thing hazardous, and therefore the Deponent cannot say he was positive in any thing, but was most inclined to have the Duke of *Monmouth* head them in *Scotland*, of which no particular Method was laid down. *Fervyswood*, the Deponent, and Mr. *Veatch*, were for taking the Money at one of these Meetings. It was resolved, that Mr. *Martin*, late Clerk of the Justice Court, should be sent to *Scotland*, to desire their Friends to hinder the Country from rising, or taking rash Resolutions upon account of the Council, till they should see how Matters went in *England*. The said *Martin* did go at the Charges of the Gentlemen of the Meeting, and was directed to the Lairds of *Polwart* and *Torwoodlie*, who sent back word, that it would not be found so easie a Matter to get the Gentry of *Scotland* to concur. But afterwards in a Letter to Commissar *Monro*, *Polwart* wrote that the Country was readier to concur than they had imagined, or something to that purpose. The Deponent, as above-said, having brought over a Key from *Holland*, to serve himself and Major *Holms*: He remembers not that ever he had an exact Copy of it, but that sometimes the one, sometimes the other kepted it, and so it chanced to be in his Custody when a Letter from the Earl of *Argyle* came to Major *Holms*, intimating, that he would join with the Duke of *Monmouth*, and follow his Measures, or obey his Directions: This Mr. *Veatch* thought fit to communicate to the Duke of *Monmouth*, and for the under.

understanding of it was brought to the Deponent; and he gave the Key to Mr. *Veatch*, who, as the Deponent was inform'd, was to give it and the Letter to Mr. *Ferguson*, and he to show it to the Duke of *Monmouth*; but what was done in it, the Deponent knows not. The Deponent heard the Design of killing the King and Duke, from Mr. *Shepard*, who told the Deponent some were full upon it. The Deponent heard that *Aaron Smith* was sent by those in *England* to call Sir *John Cochran*, on the account of *Carolina*, but that he does not know *Aaron Smith*, nor any more of that Matter, not being concerned in it. *Shepard* named young *Hambden* frequently as concerned in these Matters.

Sign'd at *Edinburgh Castle*, the 8 of *September*, 1684. and renewed the 18 of the same Month.

William Carstairs.

PERTH CANCELL. I. P. D.

Edinburgh Castle, 18 *September* 1684.

MR. *William Carstairs* being again examined, adheres to his former Deposition, in all the Parts of it, and depones he knows of no Correspondence betwixt *Scotland* and *England*, except by *Martin* before named, for those Gentlemen to whom he was sent, were left to follow their own Methods. *Veatch* sometimes as the Deponent remembers, stay'd sometimes at *Nicolson*, Stabler's House, at *London-Wall*; sometimes with one Widow *Hardcastle* in *Morefields*. The Deponent did communicate the Design on Foot to Dr. *Owen*, Mr. *Griffith*, and Mr. *Meed* at *Stepney*, who all concurred in the promoting of it, and were desirous it should take effect; and to one Mr. *Freth* in the *Temple*, Councillor at Law, who said that he would see what he could do in reference to the Money, but there having gone a Report, that there was no Money to be raised, he did nothing in it, nor does the Deponent think him any more concerned in the Affair. *Nelthrop* frequently spoke to the Deponent of the Money to be sent to *Argyle*, whether it was got or not, but the Deponent used no freedom with him in the Affair. *Goodenough* did insinuat once, that the Lords were not inclined to the thing, and that before they would see what they could do in the City. The Deponent saw Mr. *Ferguson*, and Mr. *Rumsay*, lurking after the Plot broke out, before the Proclamation, having gone to *Ferguson*, in the back of *Bishop gate-street*, at some new Building, whether he was directed by *Ferviswood*, who was desirous to know how things went. *Rumsay* was not of the Deponent his acquaintance before, but they knew as little of the Matter as the Deponent. This is what the Deponent remembers, and if any thing come to his Memory, he is to deliver it in betwixt and the first of *October*. And this is the Truth as he shall answer to GOD.

William Carstairs.

PERTH CANCELL. I. P. D.

At *Edinburgh*, the 22 of *December*, 1684.

THESE foregoing Pages, Subscribed by Mr. *William Carstairs* Deponent, and by the Lord Chancellor, were acknowledged on Oath by the said Mr. *William Carstairs*, to be his true Depositions, and that the Subscriptions were his, in presence of Us Undersubscribers.

David Falconer.
George Mackenzie

William Carstairs.
PERTH CANCELLARIUS,
QUEENSBERRY,
ATHOL.